# THE BUILDER,

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*SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1843.*


We have to-day given considerable space to the report which Mr. Barry has presented in reference to the decorative accessories to the New Houses of Parliament. We cannot sufficiently enlarge upon the importance of the theme, or by any thing we can say magnify its consequences in the fair estimation of our readers.

Architecture, sculpture, and painting are at length once more to be allied, and that which we have been contending for ever since we could reason, or at any rate ever since the bias of art was made manifest within us, is now recognized by the many, and propounded valiantly by one, whose position in the ranks of art entitle his opinions to the utmost deference and respect.

Mr. Barry has laid hold of this great occasion, this extraordinary era of a career in building, with which his name is to be identified, to give a marked character to the point of progress to which we have attained. Henceforth we have our backs turned upon that cold monotony of style, that frigidity of texture, that poverty and baldness, that purely mechanical and trading, that huckstering spirit, which characterized the age through which we have just completed our toil of servitude. Emancipation is the order of the day. Art is emancipated, and its professors strike joyously, and now and then somewhat boisterously, if not indecorously, the note of gratulation. However, we have no such reproach to load our reporter with; he has permitted us to name steadily, with a modest glow of heat, that passion for his art which had a rich reward in the occasion this great commission threw upon him. Mr. Barry has turned to good account certain of his opportunities; and whether he willed it or no, he now stands the creature of every favouring circumstance, and holds in his hands as it were the power of creating a new public mind; he may rivet the attention of the patrons of art, both to the art itself and to its practitioners, and secure for both from this time forward a first place in the consideration and respect of an enlightened people. Let us hope he will follow up, and be well enabled to do it, every opportunity that is now so generously afforded him.

## NEW PRISON, LEEDS.

It is our intention against the next week, if possible, to enter largely into the question of the requisites and characteristics of prison designs with a view to promote the better accomplishment of the work called for by the authorities of the borough of Leeds. We could say much upon this subject to excite and awaken not only the profession but the whole public; and to convince the former that a great matter lies in their hands, not merely in the sense usually attached to architectural designing, but in reference to the whole subject of prison economy, we shall give as much as we are able of the late plans and instructions of Government, and accompany them by such matter of general inference and reflection on our own part, and by such instruction as we may venture upon, so as to be of service to the competitors. We shall also presume to superintend this competition with a watchful eye, for the sake of our class. Any information that can be forwarded us, or any co-operation, will be greatly esteemed.

## PROPOSED NEW BUILDING ACT.

We are glad to find that our pains have been approved of by our friends, and that the cheap reprint of the Bill contained in our last number has been considered as a fair pledge, or the carrying out of the pledge, on our part, to avail ourselves of every occasion of promoting the interest of our class.

## HENSON'S AERIAL MACHINE.

A few pounds, and the good will of one of the railway companies, would test the principal qualifications of this machine. Let a common railway truck be placed upon one of the long embankments of the London and Birmingham Railroad, with the great frame-work wings lying on and secured to the top of it, at the necessary angle; in advance of this place a locomotive engine, connected by a length of rope, just as you would proceed in the relative case of "running up" a kite, then let the full speed of the engine be put on, and if the railway truck be lifted off the rails, the first question as to the ascendency power is determined. After that it might be tried as to the power of a rapidly-revolving horizontal sail (since a pair of vertical ones of sufficient size might be more difficult to fix); placing this horizontal sail—if you like, a common windmill sail of four arms—upon the truck, let motion be given to it by a strap and drum in connection with the travelling axis of the truck wheels, but let the motion be one contrary to progress, and if, when the truck advances under the draught of the engine as before, the revolution of the sails be sufficient to stop its progress, and overcome the power of the engine, you will then have determined something as regards the power to advance a machine in the air, by sails so revolving, under the influence of an accompanying engine. These experiments are simple, and may be easily tried, and would be better than all the speculations of mathematicians. It is due to that part of the public, too, who may be tempted to risk their money in the adventure; let half-a-dozen individuals put down a few pounds each to hire the wood and canvas and pay for the damage (the sails they may hire from any millwright in the fen districts), and half the mystery and doubt on the subject will be removed. Our opinion is that the railway truck, *well loaded too*, would be found to ascend (a second or tail truck might be attached to prevent too much of an ascent), and our opinion is that in the other case the revolving sails would overcome the power of the engine. These points determined, the rest would easily follow.

The attention lately excited by Mr. Henson's aerial machine has recalled to our recollection a novel called "The Mummy," the scene of which is laid in the year 2240, when balloons are supposed to have become the common mode of conveyance in England. The novel was written by Mrs. Loudon in the year 1826. The following passage describes a scene which appears now likely to be realized.

"The air was thronged with balloons, and the crowd increased every moment; these aerial machines, laden with spectators till they were in danger of breaking down, glittered in the sun, and presented every possible variety of shape and colour. In fact, every balloon in London or the vicinity had been put in requisition, and enormous sums paid, in some cases merely for the privilege of hanging to the cords which attached the cars, whilst the innumerable multitudes that thus loaded the air, amused themselves by scattering flowers upon the heads of those who rode beneath.

"Besides balloons, a variety of other modes of conveyance fluttered in the sky. Some dandies bestrode aerial horses, inflated with inflammable gas, whilst others floated upon wings, or glided gently along, reclining gracefully upon aerial sledges, the last being contrived so as to cover a sufficient column of air for their support. As the procession approached the river, the scene became still more animated; innumerable barges of every kind and description shot swiftly along, or glided smoothly over the sparkling water. Some floated with the tide in large boat-like shoes; whilst others reclining on couch-shaped cars, formed of mother-of-pearl, were drawn forward by inflated figures representing the deities or monsters of the deep.

"The ovation had now nearly reached the bridge, at the entrance to which a triumphal arch had been erected. The moment the queen and her heroic general passed under it, a small figure of Fame was contrived to descend from the entablature, and, hovering over the hero, to drop a laurel crown upon his head. Shouts of applause followed this well-executed device; and the passengers in the balloons wondering at the noise, all pressed forward at the same moment to ascertain the cause of such continued acclamations. The throng of balloons became thus every instant more dense, whilst some young city apprentices having hired each a pair of wings for the day, and not exactly knowing how to manage them, a dreadful tumult ensued; and the balloons became entangled with the winged heroes and each other in inextricable confusion.

"The noise now became tremendous: the conductors of the balloons swearing at each other the most refined oaths, and the ladies screaming in concert. Several balloons were rent in the scuffle, and fell with tremendous force upon the earth; whilst some cars were torn from their supporting ropes, and others roughly overset. Luckily, however, the whole of England was at this time so completely excavated, that falling upon the surface of the earth was like tumbling upon the parchment of an immense drum, and consequently only a deep hollow sound was returned as cargo after cargo of the demolished balloons struck upon it, though some of them rebounded several yards with the violence of the shock."

## REWARD AND SERVICE.

When it lights upon a worthy nature there is nothing procures a more faithful service than the master's liberality; nor is there any thing makes that appear more than true fidelity. They are of each other alternate parents, begetting and begotten. Certainly if these were practised, great men need not so often change their followers, nor would patrons be abandoned by their old attendants. To servants that be good and wise, rewards are not *given*, but *paid*; worth will never fail to give desert her *wages*." Believe it, a diligent and discreet servant is one of the best friends a man can be blest withal; he will do whatsoever a friend may, and will be commanded with less hazard of losing: nay, he may, in a kind, challenge a glory above his master; for, though it be harder to play a king's part well, than 'tis to act a subject's, yet nature's inclination is much more bent to rule than to obey, service being a condition which is not found in any creatures of one kind but man. Now, if the question be, when men meet in these relations, who shall the first begin, the lot will surely fall upon the servant, for he is bound in duty to be diligent; the master is tied but by his honour, which is voluntary, and not compulsive; liberality being a free adjection, and not a tie in his bargain. 'Tis good sometimes for a master to use a servant like a friend, but 'tis always fit for a servant to pay him the respect due to a master. Pride becomes neither the commander nor the commanded. Every family is but a several plume of feathers, the meanest is of the selfsame stuff; only he that made the plume was pleased to set the master highest. The power of commanding is rather political than from equal nature. The service of man to man followed not the creation, but the fall of man; since that curse there is no absolute freedom to be found below; even kings are but more splendid servants for the common body, but there is a mutuality between masters and servants; the master serves them of necessaries, and they him in his pleasures and conveniencies. Virtue is the truest liberty, nor is he free who stoops to passions, nor he in bondage who serves a noble-minded master; the *distance* in their fortunes is not so great as their *nearness* in being men—no fate can fright away that likeness. Let not, then, the master abuse his servant, for 'tis possible he may fall below him; let not the servant neglect his master, for he may be cast to a still meaner condition. Let the servant deserve, and the master recompense, and if they would both be noble, the best way is for those that be subject to forget their services, and for those that are commanders to remember them.—*Feltham*, A.D., 1631.

* Laurels.

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